

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The present application is a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. application serial number 09/978,616, filed October 16, 2001, entitled "Video Telephony," now U.S. patent 6,545,697, issued April 8, 2003. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Separately, user #2 invokes the real-time interconnection service in step 24. User #2 sends a registration message in step 25, and the central server receives the registration message and adds user #2 to the database or updates the user status in step 26, as necessary. Thereafter, the central server may periodically exchange further messages with each registered user to keep the user status current and to maintain an open session with each user, for example. When a user shuts down their application program or their computer, an unregister message (not shown) may also be sent to the central server. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A first packet exchange configuration is shown in Figure 4 wherein central server 13 performs a relay function such that all packets exchanged between computer 10 and computer 11 pass through central server 13. In other words, after a desired user (called party) accepts the data call and central server notifies the first user (calling party) of the acceptance, both endpoints continue to address their sent packets to central server 13. At central server 13, each packet is redirected by substitution of IP addresses. For example, a packet sent from computer 10 including its own IP address as the source address of the packet and the IP address of central server 13 as the destination address of the packet is

modified after being received by central server 13 to have the central server's address as its source address and to have the IP address of computer 11 as its destination address. After modification, central server 13 sends the packet back to its router and on to computer 11. The same operations are used to send packets from computer 11 to computer 10. The embodiment of Figure 4 has the advantage that greater privacy of a user's IP address is maintained since each user's computer only needs to see the IP address of central server 13. Furthermore, this configuration can readily function in the presence of network address translation (NAT) firewalls at the endpoints. Specific steps to deal with firewalls are shown in copending application U.S. Serial No. (~~Sprint Docket 1805~~) 10/034,012, filed concurrently herewith, and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. --